

What Is Claimed Is:

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1. A holder for a scouring device comprising:

a) a base;

b) a pair of opposed legs extending from the base, each leg

5 comprising a central portion and an end portion; and

c) a gripping assembly positioned at the end portion of each of the opposed legs and including a gripping means movable from a first position sufficient to secure the holder to the scouring device to a second position to release the scouring device without the user having to touch the scouring device during movement from the first position to the second position.

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2. The holder of claim 1 wherein the gripping means comprises a plurality of spaced apart teeth

3. The holder of claim 1 wherein the gripping means comprises a plurality

5 of hooks.

15 4. The holder of claim 1 wherein the base, opposed legs and gripping assembly have a unitary construction.

5. The holder of claim 1 wherein the central portion of the opposed legs comprises a gripping section wherein one of said legs is engaged by a user's thumb

and the other of said legs is engaged by at least one finger of the same hand as the user's thumb.

6. The holder of claim 5 wherein the opposed legs extend toward each other at the central portion.

5 7. The holder of claim 6 wherein the opposed legs extend away from each other at the end portions thereof.

8. The holder of claim 7 wherein the gripping means comprises a finger guard extending in a plane substantially horizontally to an upper surface of the holder and a scouring device engaging portion extending from beneath the finger guard downwardly to thereby enter into and grippingly engage the scouring device.

9. The holder of claim 8 wherein the scouring device engaging portion is a row of spaced apart teeth.

10. The holder of claim 1 wherein the base lies in a plane substantially parallel to an upper surface of the scouring device.

15 11. The holder of claim 1 wherein the central portion of the opposed legs has an uneven surface to facilitate operative engagement of the holder by the user.

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12. The holder of claim 1 wherein the holder is made from at least one flexible material selected from the group consisting of plastic, metal and rubber.

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13. A method of gripping a scouring device comprising:

- 1) placing the scouring device in contact with a holder comprising:
 - a) a base;
 - b) a pair of opposed legs extending from the base, each leg comprising a central portion and an end portion; and
 - c) a gripping assembly positioned at the end portion and including a gripping means movable from a first position sufficient to secure the holder to the scouring device to a second position to release the scouring device,
- 2) applying pressure to the opposed legs at said central portion to bring the opposed legs closer together, and
- 3) releasing the pressure on the opposed legs to thereby enable the gripping means to move to said first position to secure the holder to the scouring device.

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14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

applying pressure to the opposed legs at said central portion to bring the opposed legs closer together a sufficient distance so that the gripping means moves to the second position thereby releasing the scouring device from the holder.